

Message Text

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SUBJ: SAUDI PRESS ON ATTEMPT TO BLOCK HAWK MISSILE SALE

1. THE FOLLOWING EDITORIAL ON A CONGRESSIONAL ATTEMPT TO BLOCK THE EXPORT OF ADVANCED HAWKS TO SAUDI ARABIA APPEARED IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARAB NEWS ON MARCH 3.

2. BEGIN TEXT:

"VANCE VS CONGRESS"

WHILE US SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS VANCE WAS TESTIFYING BEFORE A HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE ON HIS RECENT TOUR OF THE MIDDLE EAST AND MAKING VERY GOOD SENSE, A JEWISH CONGRESSMAN SENT HIM A LETTER DEMANDING CANCELLATION OF THE HAWK MISSILE DEAL WITH SAUDI ARABIA. BENJAMIN ROSENTHAL'S LETTER SHOULD SERVE AS A REMINDER TO THE ARABS OF THE KIND OF PRESSURES THAT ANY US SECRETARY OF STATE WILL ALWAYS ENCOUNTER ON CAPITOL HILL. THE DEMOCRATIC CONGRESSMAN FROM NEW YORK BRAZENLY ATTEMPTED TO DRAW A PARALLEL BETWEEN THE HAWKS WHICH ARE DEFENSIVE WEAPONS BY ANY MILITARY STANDARD, AND THE CONCUSSION BOMBS TO ISRAEL, WHICH ARE NOT ONLY OFFENSIVE BUT ARE ALSO MORE INHUMAN THAN NAPALM. MORE UNCLASSIFIED

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BRAZENLY, ROSENTHAL'S LOPSIDED LOGIC LED HIM TO CONCLUDE THAT SAUDI ARABIA WOULD UNDERSTAND AND THAT THE DENIAL OF THE HAWKS "COULD NOT BE VIEWED BY THE SAUDIS AS A ONE-SIDED ACTION" SINCE PRESIDENT CARTER HAS ALREADY CANCELLED THE SALE OF CONCUSSION BOMBS TO ISRAEL.

WHAT SAUDI ARABIA UNDERSTANDS IS THAT MEN LIKE THE NEW YORK CONGRESSMAN ARE OBSTRUCTING PEACE IN THE MIDDLE

EAST BY TAKING ISRAEL'S SIDE AGAINST THE ARABS BLINDLY AND EVEN IN VIOLATION OF AMERICA'S OWN INTERESTS. AND THE FACT THAT SAUDI ARABIA UNDERSTANDS ONLY TOO WELL, MAKES IT, AND EVERY OTHER ARAB COUNTRY, VERY CONSERVATIVE IN ITS ASSESSMENT OF THE CHANCES OF PEACE. MR VANCE IS AS GOOD A SECRETARY OF STATE AS THE US HAS EVER HAD--JOHN FOSTER DULLES AND HENRY KISSINGER NOTWITHSTANDING. BUT HE WILL BE HANDICAPPED EVERY STEP OF THE WAY AS HE TRIES TO PUSH ISRAEL TO THE CONFERENCE TABLE. OF COURSE, ISRAEL MAY EVENTUALLY BE PUSHED TO A CONFERENCE BUT THIS DOES NOT NECESSARILY MEAN THAT IT WILL DRINK, AND MR VANCE'S JOB WILL NOT BE MADE ANY EASIER BY AMERICAN LEGISLATORS SIDING WITH ISRAEL AGAINST THE REST OF THE WORLD, INCLUDING THE US ITSELF. THE LETTER AND THE TESTIMONY ARE A STUDY IN CONTRAST. WHILE ROSENTHAL WAS ALSO COUNSELLING MR VANCE AGAINST SELLING SAUDI ARABIA MAVERICK MISSILES, THE SECRETARY OF STATE WAS HONEST AND COURAGEOUS ENOUGH TO TELL THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE THAT THE PROPOSED ANTI-BOYCOTT LEGISLATION IS "WRONG" AND UNNECESSARY IN MANY ASPECTS, BUT IT TAKES MEN LIKE CYRUS VANCE TO SPEAK OUT AND MEN LIKE BENJAMIN ROSENTHAL TO TRY TO PULL WOOL OVER EVERYONE'S EYES. THE BOYCOTT IS A POLITICAL WEAPON EMPLOYED AGAINST A COUNTRY WITH WHICH THE ARABS ARE STILL IN A STATE OF WAR. THE ARABS ARE NOT INTERFERING IN ANY OTHER COUNTRY'S BUSINESS BUT ARE SIMPLY REFUSING BUSINESS WITH COMPANIES DEALING WITH THEIR ENEMY. WHEN CONGRESS ATTEMPTS TO BLOCK THIS KIND OF ACTION, IT IS INTERFERING IN THE RIGHT OF THE ARABS TO CHOOSE THEIR BUSINESS PARTNERS AS MR VANCE HIMSELF HAS SAID, THOUGH NOT UNCLASSIFIED

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IN SO MANY WORDS.
BUT THE FACT THAT MR VANCE HAS PASSED HIS FIRST MIDDLE EASTERN TEST WITH FLYING COLORS AND HAS BEEN ABLE TO STAND UP TO CONGRESS AND GET AWAY WITH IT, SHOULD GIVE THE ARABS A FLICKERING OF HOPE FOR THE FUTURE. THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION MAY STILL BE ABLE TO HELP A JUST AND LASTING PEACE IN THE REGION.
END TEXT.
PORTER

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